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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1998

Information Copy for: Dr. James Rhoads, Archivist of the United States

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

18 MAY 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Preservation of Records Relating to Assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Reverend Martin Luther King

The Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations has requested the Department of Defense to remind its components to take action to preserve all records which have any possible relevance to the investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Reverend King.

The Department has assured the Select Committee Staff that Department of Defense Records Disposal Authority NC1-330-76-1, dated May 3, 1976, specifically enjoins holders of Defense Investigative Program records to preserve all files determined to be of possible historical value, those of widespread public or congressional interest, or those of other major investigations by offering them to the National Archives after either 15 or 25 years.

Because of the pending Select Committee investigation into the several assassinations referred to above, please instruct all Records Disposition personnel to be particularly alert to prevent the destruction of any investigative or intelligence files which have any possible relevance or color of relationship to the two assassinations in question. Among the categories of files which conceivably would relate to these assassinations are investigative and intelligence files dealing with Soviet-American and Cuban-American relations, during the time frame 1959-1969.

This period of special alert to prevent destruction of files which reasonably are believed to relate to these assassinations shall extend to December 31, 1978.

D. O. Cooke
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

JFK ACT 9-17-98 RELEASE

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